

The Beacon

A Welcoming Congregation

August 2008

August 3 — 10:00am

A Space for Life

Rev. Jim McKinley

We are a part of creation: however you understand where we come from; whether you identify a creator or not. Each of us has been gifted life. We are forms of the persistent force of being. I understand joy as a part of this persistence. Like a green shoot, joy will emerge; it can even surface through circumstance and hardship, given half a chance. We increase that chance as we begin to recognize and intentionally create and hold spaces for the gift and gifts of life - and love and justice, even if only for moments - in all we do. Summer frees up space for practice and notice.

August 10 — 10:00am

Religious Diversity

Pat Jobe

The Buddhist answer to the Christian question, and how we do well to include Islamic, Jewish, and Hindu teachings in our thought and practice whether we are atheistic or theistic. Pat Jobe is an award-winning journalist with three books on the market. He did commentary for public radio for 17 years and has spoken to UU congregations in both Carolinas, and was a featured presenter, along with Meg Barnhouse, at the 2006 General Assembly.

August 17 — 10:00am

Community Ministry?

Judith Long

The UUA recognizes three different ministries among its professional staff: parish ministers, ministers of religious education, and community ministers. We can understand parish ministry, and we can even understand minister of religious

education. But what *is* a community minister? Who are they? What do they do? And what does it mean to be an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister working in community? Rev. Judith Long is a community minister working in Hendersonville at The Free Clinics. She will explore with us the notion of Unitarian Universalist community ministry.

August 24 — 10:00am

Common Threads, Wider Vision:

A Report from General Assembly

Rev. Jim McKinley et al.

Inspiring and hopeful. Even noticeably more than usual. That's how I would characterize this year's General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist congregations. Eight members of UUFH attended this UU university of business, workshops and worship, talks and training. Every person saw it from different perspective; we each chose our own majors as it were. We each connected with different wisdom. "Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal the World." is one slogan we brought home. Hear how our spirits were nurtured. Share in the hope and encouragement. Learn how we might each help heal the world.

August 31 — 10:00am

Rev. Jim McKinley

"Immigration, Labor and Love." Since 1909, Labor Sunday has been dedicated to the spiritual aspects of labor. This year, many of the issues of labor center on questions of immigration. It is not a simple matter of taking the side of the undocumented immigrants in search of a better life or the side of the American workers trying to hold on to getting by. As Unitarian Universalists we are called to hold the tension in the spiritual challenges of love and inclusion in order to find meaning with understanding for all. That is a labor of justice.

Sunday Helpers

August 3

Greeters:

Ushers: Marion & Janet Bradford

Pulpit Decorations: Liz Snively

Social Time Hosts: Ginny Martin

Sound System: Stephen Cefalu

August 10

Greeters:

Ushers: Bill & Harriet Ball

Pulpit Decorations: Sally Vice

Social Time Hosts: Ron & Roxana White

Sound System: Don Day

August 17

Greeters:

Ushers: Nerlyn Arce Montes,
Jeanette Butterworth

Pulpit Decorations: Charlotte Wolf

Social Time Hosts: Pat Wakeley

Sound System: Brad Dienst

August 24

Greeters:

Ushers: Susan Kuehn, Aggie Sprung

Pulpit Decorations: Linda Mager

Social Time Hosts: Skip & Phyllis Sheldon

Sound System: Todd Hoke

August 31

Greeters:

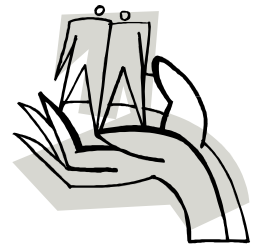
Ushers: Stephen Cefalu, Leila Giesenschlag

Pulpit Decorations: Bonnie Arbuckle

Social Time Hosts: Mickey Kilpatrick

Sound System: Brian Edwards

Thank You!!!



The Pastoral Associate on call for August is Diane Halper (891-3118).



Sunday Worship Service Schedule — What Time is it?

Summer Services: One service at 10:00 am. All Summer until September.

Doing Your Fair Share

There will be **sign up sheets** for Greeter/Usher/Pulpit Decoration downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Greeters will be invited to a **Greeter Gab in October** before greeting.

If you wish to contact the coordinators to volunteer:

Dee Fisher, Greeter Coordinator: darlenefisher70@yahoo.com or 685-2922

Gloria Hofer, Usher Coordinator: rgh458@bellsouth.net or 693-0003

Kathleen Emanuel, Pulpit Decoration Coordinator: kemanuel@mchsi.com or 891-8028.

If you have questions regarding Coffee host, contact **Joyce Day**, Coffee Host Coordinator: Joycedonday@bellsouth.net or 697-0455.



Volunteers are GREATLY appreciated!



UUFH Auction

To meet our budget this year we need a successful auction. The tentative date is **Friday evening, November 7th**. **Ron Partin** has volunteered to coordinate the auction and he will need lots of help. We need to get a planning team organized this summer. It really is a fun-raising fundraiser! There is a job for you. Please contact Ron today at rpartin@bgsu.edu or 698-2763 to volunteer. We hope you will mark the event on your calendar today.

The RE Yard Sale — Saturday, August 2 From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We need your treasures that you no longer use!
We need your help with the sale (both set-up and clean-up)!
And we need you to come and shop at the sale!



Bring your donations to the basement of the office building at 409 Patterson Street during regular office hours (Mon - Fri 10am to 2pm). If you need assistance with larger items call **Vicki Benavides** at 698-2636 (office) or 696-1541 (home) to make arrangements for a pick-up the week of the sale.

COMING SOON . . .

Adult Education Series

Ideology, Religion, U.S. Foreign Policy and the Middle East

Lorrayne Baird Lange, new to UUFH, taught for 26 years as a university professor. In 2007, she received the UU of the Year Award from her UU congregation in Cherry Hill, NJ for coordinating a study group for two years similar to the one she'd like to organize here



The group will study topics including the rise of neo-conservatism in the U.S., imperialism, and dynastic background of the U.S. Government, Islam, the Christian Right, Zionism, and how these forces and ideologies impact U.S. Foreign Affairs. Please contact Lorrayne at 697-0620 or **Jan Partin** at janpartin@hotmail.com or 606-9191, if you'd like to participate in such a series in our fellowship. There will be an organizational meeting in September (TBA).



UUFH ADULT ENRICHMENT Options

...adding to your life

UUFH Women's Fellowship Group —

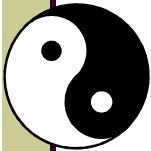
The group will not meet in August due to the R.E. Garage Sale. Please mark your calendar for **September 6th** when we will resume our monthly meetings. Contact persons, **Lorrie Shelly** 891.8502 or **Diane Emon** 685.9995.

UUFH Men's Discussion Group —

Notice a date change: **August 9th** at 8:30am in the room next to the kitchen. Subject: The UU principles. What are they; what do they mean; how would you change them? Questions: **Don Emon**, 685-9995.

Qigong Classes — Wednesdays

Starting at 4pm or 5pm in Fellowship Hall



This is a perfect time to get energized, de-stress, and lift your spirit! Newcomers and returning students are welcome to join in. We will be reviewing and focusing on the basics of this ancient Chinese health system. Qigong (chi kung) consists of a series of slow and gentle movements that are easy to learn and do.

Qigong is ideal for increasing energy, improving health, reversing the aging process, and experiencing inner peace. It works to lower blood pressure; enhance the circulatory, digestive, & respiratory systems; detoxify major organs; improve balance and more.

There is no charge for this ongoing class. Wear loose clothing and flat shoes. As with all exercise programs, obtain your doctor's approval before beginning. Open to the public. Bring a friend or two!

For more information, call Qigong Masters **Bob & Fran German** at 693-0444.



Easy Livin' in the Summertime

Our UUFH calendar of events slows down a bit in the summer. It is important to keep the "Office Calendar" as up-to-date as possible to avoid conflicts. So if your group or committee is continuing throughout the summer or taking a break, please call or email Laura Jump in the office so that she can keep the calendar in the office accurate for repeating meetings. Call 693-3157, or email: uufh@mchsi.com.

Come to The Mountain!

Our annual retreat at this wonderful place will be the weekend of **October 10-11-12** with UU friends from Transylvania County and Athens, Georgia. As always, opportunities to enjoy, share, learn, sing, hike, relax, and eat well! Registration forms and schedule are at The Mountain Corner in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact **Neal Andreae** or **Dick Britton**.



Why should we live in such a hurry and waste of life? We are determined to be starved before we are hungry. I wish to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life. I wish to learn what life has to teach, and not, when I come to die, discover that I have not lived. — Henry David Thoreau

ESL Tutor Program at UUFH

We will begin this school year with nine returning students and a list of Head Start mothers waiting for tutors. Please consider joining us in September--it's as easy as **ABC** to be part of this **A+** outreach program.

Attend a tutor training workshop offered by the Blue Ridge Literacy Council.*

Begin one-to-one ESL lessons with your student in fellowship hall Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Celebrate your efforts to make a difference in the life of one individual and to contribute to the greater community.



* The next **Tutor Training Workshop** is scheduled for **August 12, 14, 19, and 21 (6-9 p.m. each day)**. All workshops are a total of 12 hours and are held on the BRCC campus. For information about this or other scheduled workshops call BRLC (698-3811). For information about the Tutor Program at UUFH call **Roxana White** (697-8624).

New Beacon Staff

Next month **Liz Snively** will be taking over as Beacon editor. Please email all items to her at lizsnively@mchsi.com. **Laura Jump**, our new office manager, will be taking over the layout work. Thanks to **Chris** for the superb job she has done in making the Beacon a very professional publication.





Outreach Outlook

Outreach Sunday: August 31, 2008

The Heartland District UUA

One only has to watch the news to be aware of the devastation created by recent floods in the Midwest and to wonder how people, including our Midwestern Unitarian Universalist Congregations, may have been affected by the flooding.

A recent e-mail from the Heartland District UU requests financial support for those congregations affected by the flooding. Many have lost homes, often with no insurance and the damage in the cities and countryside will affect the economy of the area for a long time to come.

We can help! The Heartland District Board and Staff will create distribution systems that will enable them to accept donations for UU families and congregations affected by flooding and assist those in need.

Donations collected on August 31 will be forwarded to the Heartland District. Checks should be made out to UUFH with Heartland District UUA in the memo line.

Outreach Committee History

The Outreach Committee was formed in January 2001 to lead UUFH in its efforts to participate in the life of Western North Carolina and the larger world community. Accomplished mainly by funding organizations that minister to the needs of the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the powerless.

Twenty-five non-profit organizations have received support through Outreach funding: Oxfam, IAM, The Rescue Mission, Mainstay, The Healing Place, The Literacy Council, The Free Clinics, The Heifer Project, Jovenes Scholarships, NAMI, Faith-Link, Guardian ad Litem, The Latino Advocacy Council, Meals on Wheels, Doctors without Borders, Child Care Center, WINS, The Storehouse, Pardee Hospital Chaplain's Fund, Vocational Solutions, The Council on Aging, The Boys and Girls Club, Women Build/Habit, AMBUCS, and ECO. Many of these non-profits have received support more than once.

In addition, special collections have been held in response to emergency situations: Ysunami Relief Fund, Katrina, Asian Earthquake Fund, Malaria Project, Dafar Relief, 6th Ave. Club House, and UUSC for disaster relief in Myanmar and China. **Grand Total 2001-08:\$63,713**



Landscape Committee

There is now a **"To Do" list** in a blue folder in the Landscape folder in the office file box. Anyone wishing to put in some quality work time at any odd hour can now see what needs to be done and go to it.

"The mission of the landscape committee is to plan and implement aesthetic and functional improvements for the UUFH campus grounds. These improvements include landscape plantings, hardscape elements (rock/stonework), general maintenance, and special projects (in conjunction with the facilities committee)."



Women Build Project

Please accept our sincere thanks for your caring response on Fifth Sunday! You raised a **grand total of \$1,377** for the Women Build project! Such outstanding generosity! By the time you read this, the house should be complete and inhabited by the family selected by Habitat for Humanity.

Special thanks to **Steve Tipps** and to the Outreach Committee, especially to **Ruth Wodock** (who led me through the entire process) and to **Tina Duncan** for the attractive poster in the Fellowship Hall. But most of all, to you who responded so generously. All of us affiliated with the project are most appreciative. Thank you!

- **Rita Wax**, Communications, Women Build Leadership Council

















Safe Disposal of CFL Bulbs

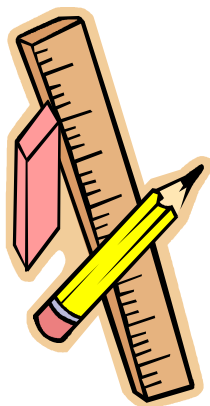
Burned out CFL bulbs can now be taken to Home Depot for environmentally safe disposal. FYI, these bulbs have a very small amount of mercury in them making it best to be disposed of properly. Luckily, CFL bulbs tend to last 5 to 10 years. The Skyland Fire Department will also accept these bulbs.



I A M SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

During July and August please consider donations of school supplies for students whose families are in financial crisis. Items needed for the IAM Annual School Supply Drive are:

-  backpacks,
-  3-ring binders,
-  notebook dividers,
-  loose leaf paper,
-  calculators,
-  colored pencils,
-  markers,
-  highlighters,
-  index cards,
-  pencil boxes & pouches,
-  pencil sharpeners,
-  glue sticks,
-  erasers,
-  rulers,
-  safety scissors,
-  crayons, and pencils.



Thank you for your regular support of IAM's food pantry. "Kid-friendly" foods are requested for July: peanut butter & jelly, canned pasta, cereal, and healthful snacks. Food items and school supplies may be deposited in the IAM box located in Fellowship Hall.

July 10 UUFH Board Meeting Highlights



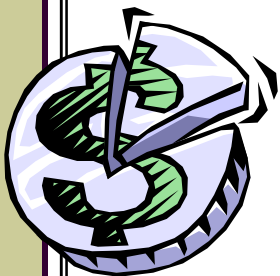
- ▶ A coupon or draft for direct deposit (a convenient and green choice) for pledges is being worked on so that our income will be more steady and predictable.
- ▶ Our congregation donated approximately \$30,000 to charities in the last fiscal year.
- ▶ Forms have been made up, and a procedure is being worked on, to honor members of our congregation who have performed extraordinary service to the community or us.
- ▶ The board voted to adopt a new policy for announcements at the Sunday service.
- ▶ Board approved RE yard sale on **August 2**.
- ▶ All-day board retreat planned for **September 6** with **Annette Marquis/Ron Partin** facilitating.

Board Policy for Announcements

Board members have been doing the announcements over the past few years and although they believe Sunday morning announcements are important, they also believe that they need to be limited for the sake of the overall service. We hope you will agree, and when approaching a board member to do an announcement on Sunday morning, keep these thoughts in mind.

- ▶ Written announcements should be turned in ahead of the service to the board member doing announcements that morning.
- ▶ Announcements should be brief and concise.
- ▶ We prefer that board member representatives read announcements.
- ▶ If events/activities are listed in the order of service they will not be cited, however, special events/programs such as Jubilate may be highlighted.

For a schedule of board members doing announcements, contact Laura, the office manager.

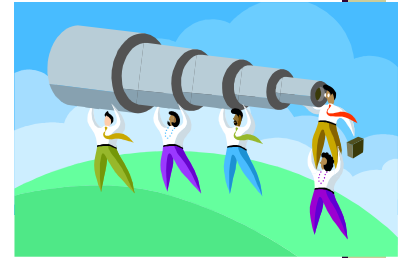


Easy Pledging

Looking for a way to make pledging easier? UUFH can do automatic withdrawals from your bank account. No hassles from the treasurer to collect from you. No more worries on your part if you travel or if you just forget to make that payment when you meant to do so! And automatic withdrawals are a much greener way of making payments! Request an electronic transfer form from our Treasurer Chuck Holcomb (692-8513) or e-mail him at cholcomb@hughes.net.

President's nUUs

What can you imagine for our congregation, say, five years from now? 10 years? I have been reading your dream scenarios, an exercise the Strategic Planning Committee asked those who attended focus groups to consider. Your collective imagination is incredibly inspiring! One read *'UUFH has built a wonderful new facility which draws a vital, exciting and diverse group of members and friends. The Fellowship is well known in the community for acting on shared values, both within the community and in the state, nation, and world at large. The congregational leadership roles are well defined and shared by many thoughtful people who are committed to UU principles.'* Powerful stuff, wouldn't you agree?



One of the first tasks of the new board will be to look at nine priorities identified by the Strategic Planning Committee and determine which ones we will focus on this coming year. The number one priority identified as most in need of attention is Congregational Purpose and Vision. What is our collective purpose? What is our vision? You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

As incoming Board President, I am so fortunate to have so many talented, committed, dedicated folks to work with. There are many challenges (and opportunities) ahead; some will require difficult work and hard decisions. But I know we have board members, committee chairs, and committee members/ coordinators of the highest caliber ready to support the congregational programs and activities. When asked to volunteer, I hope you will be receptive to their requests.

And I do encourage you to make your concerns and suggestions known to the board as a group or to individuals. But please remember, this body is a team of individuals, just like you, who happen to be in these roles at this particular time. Next year, and into the future, many of you will occupy these positions.

I truly hope we will be doing more dreaming than complaining as we look to better define who we are and what where we are going. I loved Van Jones' quip (Van was the keynote speaker for GA 2008): "Martin Luther King's speech was not "I Have a Complaint," "I Have a Critique," or "I Have a Long List of Issues." We need beautiful dreams!

Love and Light,
Jan



The RE Corner

There is something about summer that inspires us to take a little extra time to enjoy our "break". I have been enjoying our more relaxed summer schedule. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to teach this summer as we learn more about the Seven Principles and the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism. This theme is a great introduction to our Unitarian Universalist Identity theme for the coming RE year. I also think it has been relatively painless for our teachers to use a "lesson in a box" each week. Once again it is proven that our cooperative program works and that the children are getting our best year round.

I spent last week up at The Mountain. It was RE Week, a week where religious educators gather to study specific themes. This year we had a three-track week. We spent considerable time on Dynamic Unitarian Universalist Youth Ministry. Our facilitator was Megan Dowdell who has worked closely with the UUA staff researching what youth need and want and how to achieve truly multigenerational leadership in our congregations. It was informative and thought provoking. The second track was Conflict Resolution with Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt. She lead us through various exercises and role plays that helped us to see how through truly listening we can "meet people in the middle" in conflict. These skills learned will surely be of benefit to all who participated in her workshops.

The third area of focus was one that clearly spoke to me. It was Pastoral Care and it was lead by Rev. Cheryl Wurl, an extremely well qualified and experienced trainer for ministers and doctors in the art of being with someone in distress or grief. She was a speaker that you could listen to for hours and not get bored. The time with her flew by! This is an area that I was very grateful to get further training on the skills and the dos and don'ts of dealing with people in any type of crisis or need. All in all it was a good week for me, refilling my well with time spent in solitude and in conversation with other religious educators.

Don't forget our **RE Yard Sale on Saturday August 2nd from 8am to 2pm in Fellowship Hall**. We need your donations and your help! And don't forget to come out the day of the sale and shop. The profits from this annual sale will go in to our Youth Activities Fund to provide scholarships to our youth and our families to attend camp or congregational retreats at The Mountain and to fund special events and programs for all of our children and youth.

We prove again and again that we are truly a caring, liberal religious community as we have stated in our congregation's Mission Statement. Thank you to all our members and friends for the support and help that you give to our religious education program and our youngest members.

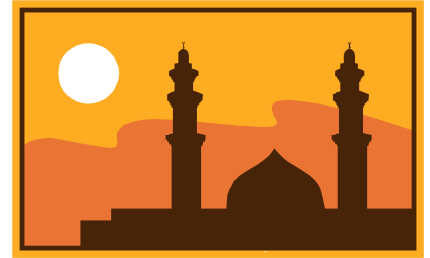


—Vicki Benavides, Director of Religious Education

Remember: RE Yard Sale — Saturday, August 2
(see page 3 for more info)

Guest Feature

UUFH friends: You may be aware that about a dozen UUFH members are active in **The Friendship Force**. Here is a press release announcing a very worthwhile project sponsored by our local chapter and being coordinated by **Dick Wolgamott**. — *Ron Partin*



Local group to serve as model for faith diplomacy mission

A group of citizens of Western North Carolina will travel this fall on a faith diplomacy mission sponsored by the local chapter of Friendship Force International (FFI).

An informational meeting on the pilgrimage will be held at **3 p.m. Sunday, July 27**, at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The public is welcome.

The travelers will represent the three Abrahamic faiths - Christianity, Judaism and Islam - as part of The Pilgrimage Project of Friendship Force International. The project is themed "People of Faith Moving Toward Common Ground."

The pilgrimage coordinator is **Dick Wolgamott**, a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hendersonville. Rabbi Philip Bentley of Agudas Israel Congregation of Hendersonville will be the Jewish faith leader. He is joined by Christian faith leader the Rev. Dr. J. Mark Stanley, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville, and Elmoiz Aburna of Asheville, the Muslim faith leader.

The leaders will guide a group of Jewish, Christian and Muslim "pilgrims" to Turkey Nov. 10-20, 2008. The pilgrimage will include sites sacred to all three religions - in Istanbul, Cappadocia, Konya, Izmir and Ephesus. Pilgrims will also attend worship services and meet with local religious leaders and members of their congregations.

Upon return, the pilgrims will develop local programs to encourage positive interfaith relations.

A grant from The Cousins Foundation of Atlanta will take the Atlanta pilgrimage model and expand it to 10 additional communities in the U.S. FFI recently invited its U.S. clubs to consider organizing a pilgrimage. The WNC chapter is privileged to be the first U.S. group to have the opportunity to do so.

FFI is an Atlanta-based global exchange program and a non-profit exchange organization dedicated to the principle that each person can make a contribution to global goodwill. It was founded more than 30 years ago by the late Wayne Smith, a Presbyterian minister. Home hospitality is the heart of the concept.

The organization was established in 1977 with the support and endorsement of President Jimmy Carter and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. Some 374 chartered clubs and programs now exist in 54 counties.

After the tragedy of 9/11, Smith was convinced that the biggest obstacle to peace is the hostility and lack of understanding among people of different faiths, particularly Muslims, Christians and Jews. Smith organized the first pilgrimage from Atlanta as an individual.

The grant will cover partial costs of the trip. Other funds will be raised locally, most likely through two special concerts. More details on fund-raising activities will be announced in the near future.

For more information on plans, contact **Richard Wolgamott** at (828) 685-8543, or: Rabbi Philip Bentley, (828) 693-9838; Elmoiz Aburna, (828) 337-1463; the Rev. Mark Stanley, (828) 553-6425.

**UNITARIAN
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The **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hendersonville** welcomes all persons regardless of race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, or nation of origin.

The Beacon deadline is the third Wednesday of each month.

Submit input to: Liz Snively, lizsnively@mchsi.com

Our mailing list policy is to send *The Beacon* to non-members for several months after it is requested. The annual cost is \$25 to keep someone on the mailing list. If your only contribution is cash, please make a point of identifying the source. We don't want to stop sending *The Beacon* to anyone but need some expression of interest to keep it coming.

Board Members:

Jan Partin, President
Dick Wolgamott, Vice President
Janet Gardner, Secretary
Charles Holcomb, Treasurer
Dick Britton, Finance Committee Chair

Steve Tipps, Past President
Joan Morris-Doss, At Large Member
Lee Mager, At Large Member
MC Gaylord, At Large Member

Minister: The Rev. James M. McKinley, 693-1252
RE Director: Vicki Benavides
Music Director: Katherine Price
Beacon Editor: Liz Snively, lizsnively@mchsi.com
Bookkeeper: Chris Lacy

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